

## 2004 marketing plans finalized

Two marketing plans outlining how Western power will be sold from 22 hydropower plants were announced in the *Federal Register*, June 25. The plans cover nearly 4,000 megawatts of power marketed from the Central Valley and Washoe projects in California and the Salt Lake City Area/Integrated Projects in the upper Colorado River basin.

The new plans will be effective when current power contracts expire in 2004. The plans call for marketing power to eligible preference customers across much of the West. Under the new plans, current customers can receive more than 90 percent of the resource being marketed after 2004. The rest of the resource will be available for new customers, including Native American tribes.

"These new marketing plans reach a balance between continuing to serve long-time customers and bringing the benefits of cost-based, renewable Federal hydropower to new customers—particularly Native American tribes in the intermountain West,"

said Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, in announcing the plans.

"Eligible tribes can apply for Federal power to serve their electrical needs even if they do not have utility status. These plans further our efforts to meet the trust responsibility to tribes."

Current customers include nearly 200 cities and towns, rural electric cooperatives, public utility districts, irrigation districts, Native American tribes and state and Federal facilities. Power sales revenue from these three projects added up to nearly \$350 million in FY 1998. Revenues are used to pay the costs of operating the power facilities of the projects and repay the Federal government's investment—with interest—in the facilities used to generate and deliver power.

The next steps in the process are to finalize allocation criteria for these marketing plans, share the criteria with current and potential customers and then seek allocation applications. Western staff will review applications and make decisions on how to allocate this power. Negotiating and signing contracts for power delivery services are the final steps in marketing this power.

Details of the marketing plans can also be found on Western's external Web site.

